

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTO 00941 162151Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
/063 W

-----053392 171400Z /53

R 162127Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3603

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 0941

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, DR
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER: POLITICS AND THE
ELECTIONS

REF SANTO DOMINGO 0931

1. IN MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER REPORTED REFTEL, I INFORMED THE PRESIDENT THAT I PLANNED TO DEPART SOON FOR THE COM CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON AND EXPECTED THAT OUR MUTUAL FRIEND, ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN, WOULD INQUIRE ABOUT HIM AND HIS ELECTIONS PLANS. BALAGUER ASKED THAT I CONVEY HIS WARMEST REGARDS TO TODMAN. HE CONTINUED THAT HE SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO HIS BECOMING A CANDIDATE AGAIN. HIS OWN PARTY HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY STRONG CANDIDATES AND THE CALIBRE OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATES WAS WORESE. HE DECRIED THE DIVISIONS WITHIN SEVERAL OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THEIR INABILITY TO FIND UNITY AMONG THEM. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS UNFORTUNATE STATE OF AFFAIRS TO THE LENGTHY TRUJILLO DICTATORSHIP AND THE DEEP DIVISIONS THAT LED UP TO THE EVENTS OF 1965.

2. WHEN INQUIRED REGARDING HIS RUNNINGMATE FOR THE VICE PRESIDENCY AS A MEANS OF ENSURING HIS POLICIES SHOULD HE BE ELECTED AND BE UNABLE TO FULFILL HIS TERM, BALAGUER LAUNCHED INTO WHAT IS BECOMING A FAVORITE THEME: ONE CANNOT IMPOSE A SUCCESSOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTO 00941 162151Z

ON THE PEOPLE. THE PRESIDENCY IS NOT AN INHERITED OFFICE, HE CONTINUED, AND THEREFORE A PRESIDENT, IF HE IS TO GOVERN SUCCESSFULLY, MUST EMERGE FROM THE SOCIETY ITSELF; OTHERWISE, AN "IMPOSED" PRESIDENT RISKED BEING TOPPLED EASILY, WITH ALL THE ENSUING CONSEQUENCES OF INSTABILITY. WHEN I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION WOULD BE DIFFERENT FOUR YEARS HENCE, BALAGUER REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT THE NEXT FOUR YEARS WOULD WITNESS

CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL FERMENT OUT OF WHICH HE EXPECTED NEW POLITICAL LEADERSHIP TO ARISE. HE SAID THAT WERE HE TO CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT, HE WOULD PLACE NO OBSTACLES IN THE WAY OF AN EMERGING LEADER. HE THOUGHT THE PRD HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY, HAD CONSIDERABLE STRENGTH IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, AND COULD EVEN WIN THE ELECTIONS. "PEOPLE ARE FICKLE," HE CONCLUDED.

3. COMMENT. IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT BALAGUER WILL RUN AGAIN AND THAT HIS VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WILL EITHER BE GOICO MORALES (PRESENT INCUMBENT) OR A SIMILAR CANDIDATE WHO HAS NO PRESIDENTIAL AMBITION.

4. THE PRESIDENT IS BEING DISINGENUOUS IN HIS OBSERVATIONS REGARDING LACK OF LEADERSHIP IN THE PARTIES AND DIVISIONS AMONG THE OPPOSITION. HIS OWN AUTHORITARIAN MANNER HAS DISCOURAGED REAL LEADERSHIP WITHIN HIS PARTY AND HIS WELL KNOWN TACTIC OF WOOLING CERTAIN OPPOSITION LEADERS HAS IN PART BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR OPPOSITION DIVISION.
HURWITCH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MEETING REPORTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTO00941
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780073-1104
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780246/aaaabnbc.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e97247d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SANTO DOMINGO 931
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3571449
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BALAGUER: POLITICS AND THE ELECTIONS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, DR, (BALAGUER, JOAQUIN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e97247d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014